

January 9, 1997

A letter to Bess Pearson's friends from her family

Bess is on a journey to a place that none of us have traveled to before, though many of our loved ones have. Bess always loved her journeys to new and exciting places and she welcomes this one. We are grateful that God has given us the opportunity to help her move through to this special place. She has asked us to tell you that the initial part of this journey started with a private hospital Lear Jet with her own nurse, pilot and co-pilot and she brought my brother Lou and his wife Wendy along for the ride. She also asked me to tell you how she got jounced around and that she would never be the same again. She had a wonderful journey through life...thanks to you! You have all touched her life in wonderful and special ways that have made her life very meaningful. She and we thank you all for that. So many who have been touched by this great lady are waiting on the other side for her. She has been blessed by God and we have been blessed by knowing her.

Bess quietly and peacefully departed this world she loved so dearly on Wednesday morning, January 8, 1997 in Gorham, Maine with many of her closest relatives. Her brief stay in Gorham House Nursing Home was a pleasant time with lots of caring attention from the staff and visits from her family. Her sister, Peg, arrived from New Jersey with Bob and his family and they had just visited with her very early that morning. It was as if she had waited for that final visit from Peg to complete this final chapter in her life on earth. We know of her faith and are confident of her future with God and the angels in eternity.

The attached letter was dictated by Bess on January 5, 1997

Sunday, January 5, 1997

Dear Friends:

Merry Christmas!!! Happy New Year!!!! Happy Birthday!!!! Happy Anniversary!!!

I did not elope; however, my normal December routine was interrupted by some poor health, a few trips into Presbyterian Hospital and climaxed with a trip by jet ambulance to Portland, Maine to be near my niece Jacquie and her family. The plane trip was quite bumpy, I was jounced around quite a bit and will never be the same.

My nephew Lou and his wife Wendy were kind enough to come out to Albuquerque to be with me when Laurie told them that I was in the hospital. My good friends Laurie Becker, Ruth Black, Lorraine Trent, Alice Fisher, John Havas, Aggie Lee and so many others took such good care of me while I was not feeling well. Thank you so very much!!

We decided that my recuperation would be best accomplished with some skilled nursing care around my family. There is not too much to tell you about my condition other than my heart is quite weak and I need a lot of rest and some help on a full time basis.

I am currently staying at the Gorham House which provides independent apartment living all the way to skilled nursing. I am in the skilled nursing unit. When I first arrived here I thought that it was an estate....it was so beautiful! The rooms and the facilities are quite nice. We are taking it one day at a time. My schedule though is not the same as theirs and they are taking a while to catch on..

It is winter time here and there is a blanket of snow on the ground today as we write this. The temperature is much cooler than I am used to in Belen but today it is very mild outside, in the 40's.

I did see my great nephew Jimmy and his wife Mari and my great- great niece Isabella just after I arrived here in Maine. They were in from Chicago visiting Jacquie and her family for the Christmas holidays. Jacquie, her husband John, daughters Barbara and Jean, and her son John and wife Jana are in to see me regularly as I get settled and try to get organized.

I do not have a telephone yet but when I am feeling well enough I'll get one. In the meantime, I will send out the news to you regularly. You can reach me through my niece Jacquie or my nephew Lou.

Their addresses and phone numbers are below:

Jacquie Murphy
Womens Worth Career Counseling

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Louis & Wendy Ruthazer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(Also Peg Ruthazer)

That's all for now! I'll write again soon. Thank you all for your help and concern. I am grateful for the abundance of friends and love I have in my life.

As always,

Hearts and Flowers,

Bess